

- 2 -

In the Claims

Claims 1 – 8 previously cancelled.

Claim 9 (currently amended) An apparatus for continuously cutting unpapered freshly pasted expanded, punched or cast lead or lead alloy mesh strip into paperless battery plates comprising a cutting roll having cutting blades mounted thereon and an opposed anvil roll for cutting the pasted lead or lead alloy mesh strip therebetween into equal lengths, means for journaling said rolls in operative abutment with each other in a supporting frame, an index mechanism and conveying means for continuously passing the freshly pasted lead or lead alloy mesh strip between the opposed rolls, and heating means for heating the cutting blades, index mechanism, and the cutting roll and the opposed anvil roll[s] to a temperature in the range of about 160 to 300°C.

Claim 10 (previously cancelled) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9 in which said heating means are operative for heating the cutting blades and the opposed rolls to a temperature in the temperature range of about 160 to 300°C.

Claim 11 (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9 in which said heating means are operative for heating the cutting blades, index mechanism and the opposed rolls to a temperature in the temperature range of about 180 to 210°C.

Claim 12 (previously amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9 in which the heating means are mounted axially in each of the rolls along the length of the rolls for uniformly heating the cutting blades and the rolls.

Claim 13 (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12 in which the heating means are electrical heaters mounted axially in each of the rolls in electrical communication with a power supply.

Claim 14 (previously cancelled) An apparatus as claimed in claim 10 in which the opposed rolls have cutting dies on one roll for cutting the pasted lead or lead alloy mesh strip passing therebetween into equal lengths against the other roll for support.

Claim 15 (currently amended) An apparatus for cutting pasted expanded continuous lead or lead alloy mesh strip into paperless battery plates for lead-acid batteries comprising a cutting roll having cutting blades mounted thereon and an opposed anvil roll for cutting the pasted lead or lead alloy mesh strip therebetween into equal lengths, means for

journaling said rolls in operative abutment with each other in a supporting frame, an index mechanism and conveying means for continuously passing the freshly pasted lead or lead alloy mesh strip between the opposed rolls, and electric cartridge heaters mounted axially on each roll for uniformly heating the cutting blades, index mechanism and opposed rolls to a temperature in the range of about 160 to 300°C.

Claim 16 (previously cancelled) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15 in which said heating means are operative for heating the cutting dies and the opposed rolls to a temperature in the temperature range of about 160 to 300°C.

Claim 17 (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15 in which said heating means are operative for heating the cutting [dies] blades, index mechanism and the opposed rolls to a temperature in the temperature range of about 180 to 210°C.

Claims 18 – 23 - previously cancelled.